

Terror attack on Maputo 'aborted'

MOZAMBIKAN authorities claim they have aborted a Johannesburg-based terrorist attempt to blow up Maputo's Polana Hotel — home of scores of Soviet-bloc diplomats and technicians — with "South African explosives".

In a Maputo-dated dispatch, the Portuguese news agency, Anop, reported that the Government announced police had "discovered and neutralised" a van loaded with 572 kg of wired explosives in the hotel's parking lot last Saturday night.

The Government statement said the French-built van with "foreign licence plates" had come from Johannesburg, entering the country at the Bessano Garcia border post.

It said the van's destructive load was "prepared in South Africa" by opponents of Mozambique's Marxist regime.

Wired with "a highly sophisticated detonation system," the explosives were concealed under the van's chassis and beneath the back seat.

The agency quoted explosives experts as saying that, if the "car-bomb" had exploded, it probably would have wrecked all vehicles in the hotel's parking lot

Top hotel target for SA-based hit men

na's facade by setting ablaze the entry hall, coffee salon and pastry shop.

The Marxist capital's favoured night spot, the Polana, famed for its prawns and view of the Mozambique Channel, reportedly lodges visiting South African businessmen and technicians and houses scores of Eastern European and Cuban personnel.

The Government said that documents found in the van provided "detailed information" on the saboteur group and the manner in which the attack was to be carried out.

But it did not identify the organisation.

The State-controlled media launched appeals for "popular vigilance against the enemies of the State."

The aborted attack followed claims by the Mozambican National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) that its forces had ambushed a freight train in central Mozambique on Monday and that its forces launched "violent combat" in Manica Province in recent days.

The agency also reported that acts of sabotage were also apparently responsible for a recent electricity blackout in the port city of Beira.

● Zimbabwe is to embark on joint military operations with Mozambique to wipe out anti-Frelimo dissidents attempting to overthrow the Mozambican Government.

The Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, made the announcement at a Press conference this week.

Commenting on talks he held on Friday with President Samora Machel in Beira, Mr Mugabe admitted the presence of anti-Frelimo forces on Zimbabwe soil, and said Zimbabwe was "duty bound" to get rid of them.

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